

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-02 AID-05 SR-02

ORM-01 DPW-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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S/S-O:JLHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076205

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: EVACUATION PLANS OF AMERICAN BANKS

REF: HONG KONG 3524

1. FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK AND BANK OF AMERICA HAVE
ASKED THE DEPARTMENT TO SEND YOU THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE,
SINCE THEY LACK APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES.
QUOTE: PLEASE CONTACT THE MANAGERS OF FIRST NATIONAL
CITY BANK AND BANK OF AMERICA TO ADVISE THEM THAT A PAN
AMERICAN CHARTERED 707 FLIGHT IS ARRIVING IN SAIGON APRIL 4
AT 1300 HOURS LOCAL AND DEPARTING AT 1400 HOURS. THE BANKS
HOPE THAT ALL FOREIGN STAFF CAN BE ABOARD. REMAINING SPACE
ON AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY. THE BANKS ARE
CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE REACTION TO THE DEPARTURE OF THEIR
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AMERICAN MANAGERS AND REQUEST THAT THE EMBASSY ARRANGE

DISCREET WAY FOR THE STAFF TO GET TO THE AIRPORT AND ONTO THE AIRPLANE. FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK MANAGER RIORDAN MAY LACK AN EXIT VISA AND EMBASSY ASSISTANCE MAY BE NEEDED IN OBTAINING SAME OR A WAIVER. IF THE PAN AMERICAN CHARTER UNABLE TO LAND, A BACK-UP FLIGHT HAS BEEN ARRANGED WITH FLYING TIGER AND IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FRIDAY EVENING. FLYING TIGER WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH

DETAILS.

BOTH BANKS GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THEIR VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES. THE BANKS WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE VIETNAMESE STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDENTS LEAVE WITH THE AMERICAN STAFF ON THE APRIL 4 CHARTER. IN FACT, THE CHARTER WAS ORIGINALLY ARRANGED ON BEHALF OF THE BANKS' VIETNAMESE STAFF. HOWEVER, THE BANKS UNDERSTAND THAT THIS MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO THE VIETNAMESE TRAVEL BAN. ACCORDINGLY THE BANKS REQUEST A MEETING AT NOON WITH A SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICER, THE DEPARTING AMERICAN MANAGERS, THE NEWLY APPOINTED VIETNAMESE MANAGERS IN ORDER TO REVIEW PLANS FOR EVACUATION OF THE VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS SHOULD CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE. THE BANKS ARE PREPARED TO SEND ANOTHER AIRPLANE AT A LATER DATE. ALSO PLEASE INFORM THE MANAGER OF THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK OF THE ABOVE. UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS POSED BY THE BANKS' DESIRE TO EVACUATE THEIR LOCAL EMPLOYEES, YOU SHOULD PROVIDE ALL REASONABLE ASSISTANCE TO THE BANKS IN THIS OPERATION. ASSUMING THAT THE GVN WILL NOT AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTURE OF BANKS' VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES, REQUEST YOU PROVIDE EVERY APPROPRIATE ASSURANCE TO BANKS THAT THESE PERSONNEL ARE INCLUDED IN OUR E AND E PLANNING. THE BANKS ARE OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF BOTH THEIR VIETNAMESE AND AMERICAN PERSONNEL. IN PARTICULAR, FIRST NATIONAL HAS ASKED FOR AND SHOULD BE GIVEN EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR RIORDAN'S DEPARTURE, INCLUDING EMBASSY OFFICER ESCORT TO THE AIRPORT. FIRST NATIONAL REPORTS THAT, WHEN RIORDAN UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT TO TURN OVER

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BANK'S OPERATIONS TO NATIONAL BANK OF VIET-NAM, GVN AUTHORITIES THREATENED HIM WITH ARREST. KISSINGER

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NNN

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